

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 01761 200153Z
ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6105
USDA WASHDC

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FOR AGRICULTURE FOR LANKFORD/FAS AND HAYS/SEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJ: PROPOSED SWISS AFLATOXIN LEVELS

REF: FASTO 37

1. ON APRIL 14, AGATT DISCUSSED WITH DR. ULRICH FREY, DIRECTOR, SWISS DEPT OF HEALTH (SDOH), SUBSTANCE OF INVITATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL. FREY WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF OFFER AND RECEPTIVE BUT WITH SOME QUALIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM AS OUTLINED. HE ESPECIALLY ASKED US TO RELAY HIS HIGH REGARDS FOR THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY DR. HAYS DURING THE MEETING OF THE US AFLATOXIN DELEGATION WITH MEMBERS OF SDOH.

2. ALSO, AGATT RECEIVED LETTER FROM FREY SHORTLY BEFORE THE MEETING AND UNRELATED TO IT, REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FOOD AND DRUG. LETTER, WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY, INDICATES FREY'S CONCERN FOR FDA INPUT AUGMENTING USDA'S. THUS, HIS COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED US PROGRAM EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING
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WITH SCIENTISTS ESPECIALLY FROM FDA AND MINIMIZED THE VALUE OF MEETING WITH INDUSTRY OR COMMODITY GROUPS.

3. FREY GAVE EVERY INDICATION THAT A SOUND RATIONALE SUCH AS HE SUGGESTED IN LETTER WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY HELP HIM COUNTER THE OPINIONS OF

PROF. SCHLATTER WHICH HE BELIEVES IGNORE RISK-
BENEFIT FACTORS. BASED ON SEVERAL CAREFULLY WORDED
AND CAUTIOUS REMARKS BY FREY, AGATT FEELS HE IS
LEANING TOWARD AN AFLATOXIN LEVEL OF ABOUT 15 PPB.
THIS LEVEL WOULD BE LESS THAN PRESENTLY ESTABLISHED
IN THE US, BUT HIGHER THAN THE LEVELS SET OR
ATTITUDES PREVAILING IN CERTAIN EEC COUNTRIES.
FURTHER, HIS GUARDED COMMENTS INDICATED HE PERCEIVES
THE SWISS LEVEL TO BE ESTABLISHED, AS EASILY SUBJECT
TO LATER LOWER MODIFICATION BASED ON NEW EVIDENCE,
AND THAT MUCH OF THAT NEW EVIDENCE WOULD BE DRAWN
FROM THE US.

4. I WILL EXTEND THE INVITATION TO DR. FREY TODAY,
DRAWING UPON CONTENTS OF REFTEL.
WARNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: INVITATIONS, MEETINGS, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: EAGR, (FREY, ULRICH)
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